



L O N G B E A C H

Wave

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for the Long Beach community

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City web site: www.longbeach.gov

Long Beach Energy Rebates

The City of Long Beach has received the initial payment in partial settlement of the City's natural gas antitrust lawsuit against the El Paso Natural Gas Company. This lawsuit was filed by the City Attorney as a result of the extremely high natural gas prices during 2000-2001. The City and the Long Beach Energy ratepayers will benefit in the initial total amount



of \$3.8 million. In addition, nearly \$10 million, payable over the next 20 years, is anticipated. Long Beach Energy customers will receive a credit against next month's natural gas bills. Customers who have questions regarding the credit can call Long Beach Energy at 570.2063 or visit Long Beach Energy's web site at www.LBEnergy.org.

Water-wise Solutions Limit West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is now in our community and is probably here to stay. You will reduce your risk of exposure, and that of your family and neighbors, by preventing and eliminating standing water.

Only mosquitoes transmit West Nile Virus, transmitting the virus from birds to humans. Therefore, a reduction in mosquito population reduces risk of exposure to the virus. One of the most **powerful tools to limit mosquito populations** is to interrupt their development. This can be done by preventing the formation of the pools of standing water needed for the incubation of eggs, larvae, and the pupae stages.

Sprinkler System Operation & Maintenance Solutions

A frequent source of standing pools of water is improperly operated and maintained sprinkler systems. Such systems can cause pooling and excessive runoff which can then pool downstream of your home or business. If you have automatic sprinklers, please run them once every week during daylight to check for the following items.

- **Leaks, breaks, and missing sprinkler heads:** About ten percent of sprinkler systems have serious leaks, breaks or missing sprinkler heads. Owners may be unaware of this if they never see the system in operation.
- **Misaligned sprinkler heads:** It is common for individual sprinkler heads to turn slightly so they no longer spray just on

the landscape. If sprinkler heads are misaligned, simply turn them back to the correct position.

- **Over-spray:** Water spray beyond the landscape area and onto sidewalks, driveways, streets and other non-landscaped areas can occur. If the over-spray comes from just a few sprinkler heads, consider reducing the flow of water from them individually. If most sprinkler heads are affected, consider turning down water pressure at the controller, if possible.
- **Watering times:** Even in summer, if sprinklers run longer than 15 minutes, the ground is almost certainly saturated and additional watering leads to pooling and runoff. Consider reducing watering times.

Water Conserving Landscape Solutions

Drought tolerant landscape typically requires little water, reducing the risk of creating standing water. These colorful **Water Solutions** continued on back page.

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scapes include beautiful plants native to California and other Mediterranean climates, and may incorporate very low maintenance, non-plant material such as decks and pavers.

In addition to reducing the threat of West Nile Virus, other reasons to convert to water-wise landscape include:

- beautify your home;
- reduce maintenance and operating costs;
- reduce the pressure in Southern California to extract more fresh water from the environment; and
- reduce pollution from landscape runoff – which may carry pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, green waste, and other pollutants to our shoreline.

Water Conservation Solutions

For more information on water-wise landscape and to view award-winning examples, visit www.mwdh20.com. This site has great resources for both beginners and professional landscapers. You are able to estimate the correct number of days per week to run sprinklers and how many minutes per run-time are sufficient.

You can also pick up an informative CD about water conserving plants, water-wise gardens and other resources at the Water Department, 1800 E. Wardlow Road.

By working on efforts such as outdoor water conservation, we will reduce our community's exposure to West Nile Virus, beautify our neighborhoods and protect the environment.

Help Inspire Tomorrow's Workforce Today

Many of us remember that first job or mentor that inspired our career choices. Mayor Beverly O'Neill and the City's Workforce Development Bureau, in partnership with the Industry Education Council, invite you to help build tomorrow's workforce today by inspiring youth to pursue a career and stay in school.



Currently, the City's Youth Opportunity Center has over 2,500 bright Long Beach youth who are seeking internship opportunities. While a number of businesses are supporting this initiative, many more worksites are sought after to make a significant difference.

"With more than 20,000 students currently enrolled in Long Beach high schools, the opportunities for building a prepared workforce are endless," said Mayor O'Neill.

You can support the Inspired Interns Program by hosting at least one intern at your business and/or by making a tax-deductible financial contribution. The cost to train, place and pay an intern is approximately \$500. Please help build tomorrow's workforce today by calling the Youth Opportunity Center at 570-4733.

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Long Beach Airport Volunteers Needed!!

The Long Beach Airport is looking for volunteers to help with the **AOPA EXPO 2004**, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's annual convention, to be held in Long Beach, October 21-23. AOPA is the largest, most influential aviation association in the world.



We especially need volunteers to help us park approximately 2,000 visiting aircraft! We also need many volunteers to greet arriving pilots, and to staff and manage the volunteer check-in station, entry gates and food/beverage distribution stations, and to assist with other jobs.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please call Long Beach Airport staff Sileneka Smith, 570.2671 or Christine Edwards, 570.2630.

Aquarium of the Pacific GO GREEN! Raffle

The **GO GREEN!** Raffle is a way to help the Aquarium of the Pacific raise money while promoting its commitment to improving the air quality in Long Beach and all of Southern California.

Now through September 6, you can support the Aquarium's education and conservation programs by entering its **GO GREEN!** Raffle for a chance to win a 2005 Honda Civic Hybrid vehicle!

Did you know that in 2003, over 250,000 residents of Long Beach visited the Aquarium of the Pacific in family groups, almost 21,000 teachers and school children from the Long Beach Unified School District attended its formal education programs, and the Aquarium on Wheels traveled to another 22 Long Beach schools to delight more than 4,000 additional students? Your support can help continue these services.

GO GREEN! Raffle tickets are \$10 each. Purchase five tickets and get an additional one free. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Aquarium or ordered on the raffle phone line at 951.5348.

